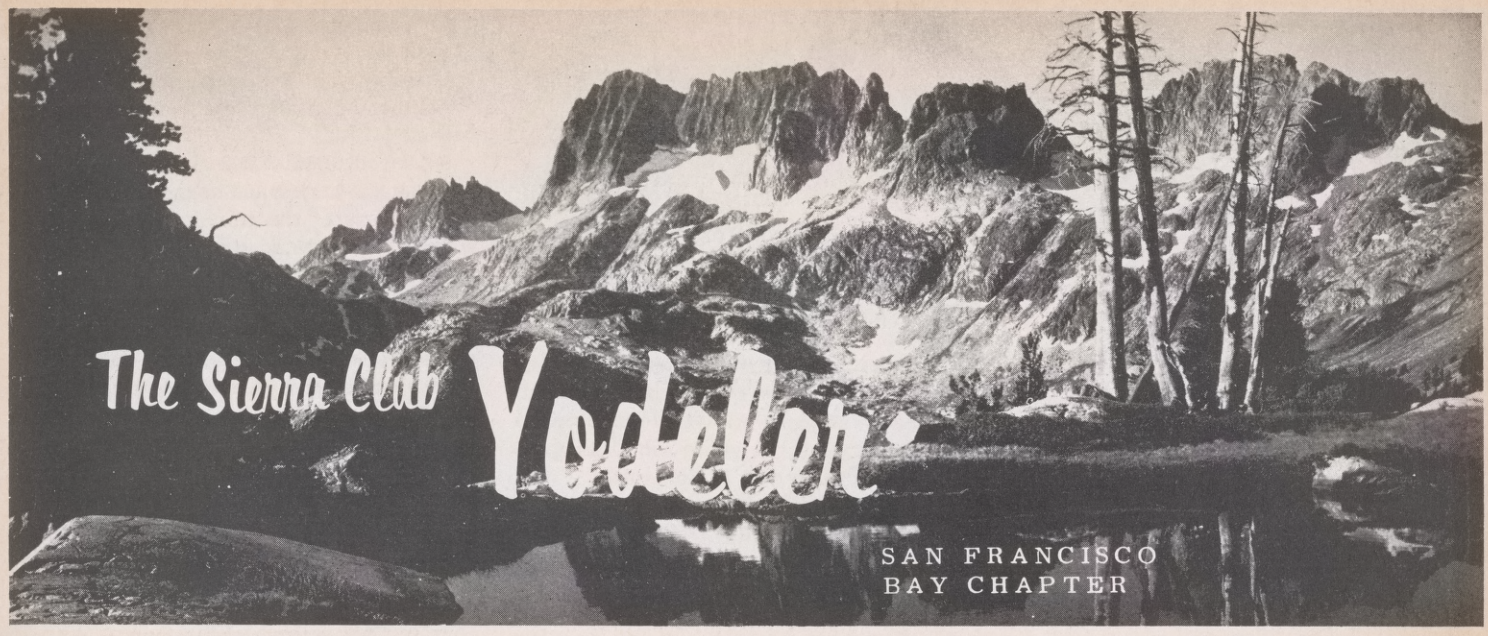

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Pt. Reyes Progress Report

Yodelreaders are familiar with the part the Sierra Club is taking in the effort to preserve the Point Reyes coastline as a National Seashore Recreation Area. The film which is our special project is now nearly complete and is about to have the narrative and the music fitted to the picture.

Not so well known to many readers is the organization set up by Marin County leaders to promote the cause. The Point Reyes National Seashore Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, held its first formal meeting on January 27.

The newborn group shows great energy and determination. It elected a Board of Directors, appointed advisers, and laid plans for a vigorous campaign of educating public, press, and county government in Marin. Among 16 directors are Sierra Club members Mrs. William (Barbara) Eastman, who is acting chairman, Harold Gilliam, Doris Leonard, Peggy Wayburn and W. Kenneth Davis.

Of course the logging of Inverness Ridge was discussed at this meeting. It was reported that Assemblyman Samuel R. Geddes, Napa, whose vigorous denunciation of the logging was given such good publicity by the S. F. Examiner, is now working to interest the Native Daughters of the Golden West in the project of stopping the logging by land exchange or purchase. If any reader is a NDGW, or knows one, perhaps she could get in touch with Mr. Geddes and arrange to bring the matter before her own chapter, arranging a showing of the film when it is ready.

The Foundation also heard from Congressman Clem Miller that legislation on the S.O.S. (Save Our Shorelines) group of bills is moving faster than expected but

Continued on Page 2

San Jacinto

As expected, the State Park Commission recommended that the State Director of Natural Resources (DeWitt Nelson) draft a new contract permitting construction of the cable railway up Mt. San Jacinto. The Palm Springs paper, The Desert Sun, has a headline, "Naturalists stage last ditch fight against San Jacinto tramway."

There now seem to be few obstacles to construction. One might be restrictions in the new contract included for the special purpose of protecting the top levels of the mountain as far as possible. (We hope Mr. Nelson's terms will be stern and firm.)

Another obstacle might well be raising the money for bonds for a project now three times as costly as when it was first promoted. Time will tell.

The audience at the hearing reports that the final recommendation of the Commission was read from a prepared statement. Apparently the typist, at least, knew what the decision was going to be.

—C.M.C.

Wilderness Bill

The Senate Committee is preparing for hearings as this is written. February 2 will be the date, not only of the discussion but probably of the committee's recommendation to the Senate. We may have news of the result in time to add a line to this notice. If not, watch the newspapers, and begin to think about the tough fight this same bill faces in the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Chairman Wayne Aspinall does not always see eye to eye with wilderness enthusiasts!

—C.M.C.

Yellowstone

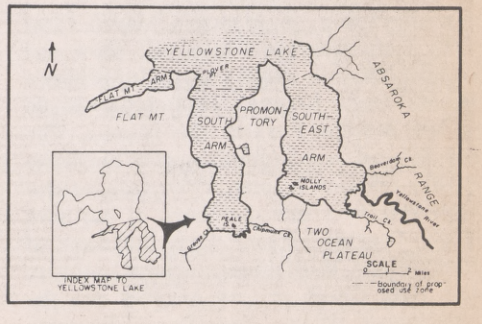
It is not too late to write (airmail) to Senator McGee in support of the National Park Service order keeping motorboats out of the southern arms of Yellowstone Lake. February 10 is given as the date letters should reach the Senator's home office, c/o James Fagan, 142 N. Center Street, Caspar, Wyo., or they may be sent directly to Senator Gale McGee, Senate Appropriations Committee, Cody, Wyo.

Wave damage to shorelines, disturbance of wildlife, and general peace are at stake in these long, narrow extensions of the huge lake.

Apparently the Senate Appropriations Committee is interested because the restriction might discourage concessionaires from investing their private capital in the Park.

We hope someone will call the attention of the Committee to the fact that attracting private capital is NOT one of the traditional purposes of our National Parks.

—C.M.C.



Sierra Club Yodeler

A semi-monthly publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

Subscription $2.00
Accommodation Ads (Members) $.50 per ad
Accommodation Ads (Non-Members) $1.50 per inch

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NEXT DEADLINE: Feb. 15

VOLUME XXII NO. 3 Feb. 1, 1960

Excuse it Please!

Two names were misspelled in the last issue of Yodeler. Our typewriter must have been tired and our telephone was misinformed. Note that our new Chapter Chairman is Philip Faulconer and that the Senator from Wyoming is Mr. Gale McGee.

Calling all River Rats

Don't forget that date. Georgie White's river rats will gather at Spenger's Sea Food, 1919 - 4th Street (Foot of University Avenue) Berkeley, Calif., for their annual party and dinner. On Saturday, March 19, beginning about 4:00 P.M., and lasting until the wee small hours this group of hardy adventurers will re-live the highlights of all 1959 river trips. Georgie has some really wonderful color film so bring your husband, wife or friends. Dinner and show is priced at $3.50. Make your reservations with Georgie at 435 West Laconia Blvd., Los Angeles.

Wheeler Hall Presents 'Idaho Adventure'

In Berkeley on Monday, March 7, at 8:00 P.M. Georgie White will show and lecture her full-length color film of three famous Idaho Rivers. This picture taken of the Middle Fork of the Salmon, The Big Salmon, and Hell's Canyon of the Snake River, taken in August, 1959, will feature kayakers who are members of our own River Touring group. Dave Bohonon, of Sacramento, William Cameron of Lathrop, and Paul Green of Los Angeles are the well-known three. The Place? Wheeler Hall, University of California. Public invited. Tickets available from University Extension.

Snowshoeing is for Infants

This new winter sport season has brought a new member to our small snowshoeing group. He is Jeff Peacock, the six month only son of two Sierra Club members, Tom and Kay Peacock.

In spite of his tender age, Jeff has already spent 5 days of this new year on snowshoe trails, travelling close to 35 miles.

His first trip was with a party of seven who went to Ludlow Hut during the New Year's weekend. Two weeks later he was with a party of ten going from Badger Pass to Ostrander Hut in Yosemite.

Jeff is a "hitchhiking" type of snowshoer. Because of his good nature and winsome way, he has no trouble inducing his mother to carry him piggy back to the destination, no matter how long or how tiring the trip may be.

Those of us who have been on these trips were aware of his constant murmuring in his good natured way while travelling. Only when Kay would stop for some reason would he utter any protest of any kind. And whenever any of us would pass Kay or whenever she would pass us, Jeff had a ready smile for us as he caught our eye.

Rarely did he whimper or cry during these trips. At night, when the party was bedded down in the same hut with Jeff, there was scarcely a sound from him, and no one lost any sleep because of his presence.

Jeff has never mentioned to anyone his impressions of these trips, but when we saw him at the end of the Ostrander trip, we had a feeling he wanted to say to us, "Easiest 19 miles I have ever done."

—Ike Eikrem

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FOR SALE, 6'9" Skis, with ski-free toe-Northland binding; poles, price, $25. Call days MO 4-3600, Extension 395 - Evenings call MO 4-1060.

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FOR SALE: Single Hammer Foldboat - Good Condition - With Spray Sheet and Surfing Bow Piece. --Don Golden, 236 - 41st St., Oakland, OLympic 3-6617.

Baltimore or Bust

I am not one of your steady correspondents but occasionally am stimulated to action.

Want to tell you all back in God's Country that the hiking and conservation clubs in this part of the world afford exercise and good companionship, too.

On December 5th last, the Mountain Club of Maryland celebrated its 25th Anniversary by a dinner and program which is certainly worth writing home about. The high point of this superb evening was an 'opera' - Les Bohemes, or A Trip to Low Point Knob - the libretto of which was written by a club member and adapted to music of such classics as the Quilting Party, Titwillow and other familiar tunes. 'Twas amazingly clever and very well done. Since the plot and characters would mean little to you far away from the local context, I'll spare elaborations. (In case anyone is interested, I sent a copy of the libretto to Virginia Romain, Berkeley). Wherever mountaineers gather, however, there are common experiences and bonds so I'll quote 4 lines from one of the arias, just to give you an idea of what we enjoyed - this to 'Titwillow';

"No matter how high in the mountains you go
There's always - another - point higher.
You may leave trees behind and gain permanent snow,
There's always - another - point higher, etc.

What a universal sentiment!

The item of special interest for my fellow members of the Sierra Club, though, is that, after our m.c. read a letter o congrats from the Atlantic Chapter of S.C. the Sierra Club was given three rousin. cheers by M-C-M! The Sierra Club is highly respected out here!

—Marian Fruhling

Point Reyes cont.

that each project would have to stand on its own feet in Congress. Point Reyes, being in the remote West as far as Eastern congressmen are concerned, should not only be standing on its feet but must be on tip-toe to move fast when the signal comes.

Are there any Marin Yodelreaders who do not yet belong to the Foundation? Your dollar membership would weigh heavily with the Marin Supervisors when the decisions come up. Send it to Mrs. William Eastman, Inverness. Out-of-county memberships are also most valuable.

—C.M.C.

Natural Science

McKinley National Park

Elizabeth Berry, naturalist, conducted the Science Section through Mt. McKinley National Park, Alaska, at the meeting of January 15. It was an outstanding trip.

Mrs. Berry, a peppy, informal speaker, showed us some of the most outstanding pictures imaginable of this area. They were a combination of beautiful, crystal-clear, colorful scenes, excellent closeups of the flora, and remarkable action shots of animals in their natural surroundings.

Some of the slides were reproductions of paintings by her artist husband, William D. Berry, so detailed and true to life that many times we found it almost impossible to tell them from the photographs.

The Berrys spent the greater part of the three years 1954-56 at Camp Denali in the Park to produce the pictures. This artist-naturalist team are the authors of "Mammals of the San Francisco Bay Region" published by the University of California Press. Bill Berry is now illustrating "Ducks, Geese and Swans," to be published soon by the Lane Publishing Co.

The meeting was held at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum in San Francisco. This in itself is well worth a visit, having numerous live animals, birds and reptiles, together with interesting exhibits that make any program held here a "double feature."

—The Grethel Family

Field Trip

Sunday, February 21.

At Moss Beach, just north of Half Moon Bay on Highway #1. Meet at the Beach at 11:00 a.m. for lunch. Bring lunch and canteen. (No drinking water available there). Bring old shoes for wading, since the water can be cold. Low tide (-.4) will be at 12:18 p.m.

Leader: Wilfred Ward

Benson Hut Snowshoers

Although fourteen snowshoers signed up for the Benson Hut trip, 'flu and weather reduced the number actually taking it to nine. They left the Sierra Club parking area under an overcast sky that threatened snow. Although the trip up the mountain was through deep powdery snow, everyone took turns breaking trail. On the ridge there was some crust; a few rocks were exposed by the wind, and now and then there was the surprise of an icy step or two. But actually the going was easy.

A squat Bassett dog followed half the way up Lincoln before he gave up the chase. No dog was more unwelcome. The sun came out a lunchtime long enough so that everyone was comfortable resting in the snow at the foot of the slope near the clump of trees below Lincoln Peak.

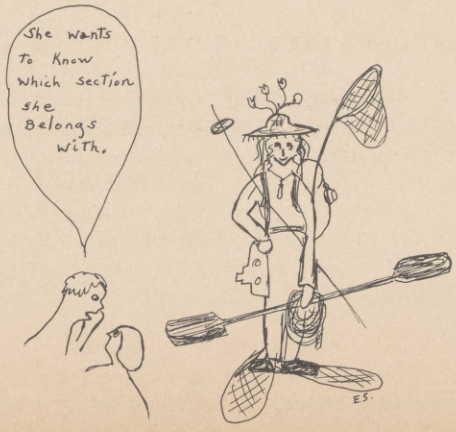
As the group dropped into the last saddle just below the hut, at about 4 p.m., the sun broke through again, etching trees and rocks in deep shadow and highlighting the blue lakes far below in the valleys.

Snow had drifted up the sides of the hut, so entry was through the back upstairs windows. The hut was soon humming with dinner preparations. Clyde presided over a "happy hour" while snow was melted, soup put on, steaks laid out. Phyllis began making joyful noises tossing a huge salad.

Two of the party explored Anderson Peak next morning, while the rest finished cleaning and closing the hut. When the group reached the top of Lincoln Peak a dense fog closed in, blotting out the ski lift and every object beyond a few feet. Close formation was maintained on the descent over the nose of the ridge, rather than along the skiers' tracks, and the group kept to the extreme right all the way down.

The return to the cars was made swiftly under a steady snowfall, which changed to rain most of the way back to the Bay Area. The wintry landscape imprinted a lasting memory of another wonderful and successful trip to Benson Hut.

LEADERS: Clyde Wiborg
Daisee M. Fanshier



Racquetaers at Echo Summit

Twenty-four people enjoyed a pleasant weekend at the Echo Summit Lodge, Jan. 16-17. Early arrivals on Friday night had a nice moonlight hike in to the Lodge. The highway department dutifully plowed out the road after everyone had walked in.

Saturday was a bright, sunny day which we spent in exploring around Echo Lake and learning some of the intricacies of snow-shoeing. Echo Lake itself was covered with snow and the surrounding mountains and snow-clad trees is a scene out of a picture postcard, not to mention the stupendous panoramic view of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding valley seen from the Lodge.

There was a very light snowfall Sunday morning, but it did not deter us from exploring around the summit area.

Our sincere thanks to our host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fraser, for getting the Lodge into working condition and for the excellent meals in spite of the lack of running water. Also, thanks to leaders Marion Berges and Jean Bonner for the necessary details of the trip.

—Pauline Lee

Standard First Aid Class

A 10 HOUR STANDARD FIRST AID class will begin: (5 two-hour class meetings)

DATE: February 8, 1960
DAYS: Mons. & Weds.
TIME: 7:30 to 9:30 P.M.
PLACE: 1625 Van Ness Ave.
Room 325, 3rd Floor

1. Come to class dressed comfortably, so that you may take part in practical skills.

2. IF POSSIBLE, please purchase your First Aid text book four or five days before the first class session. Study Chapter 1 and 2, pages 1 to 24. Also Chapter 10, pages 103 to 117.

   The price of the text book is 75¢. It may be purchased here at Chapter, 1625 Van Ness Avenue or at Stacy's Book Store, 551 Market Street.

3. Bring a 2" Roller Bandage to the first class session.

If you are unable to attend this class, please telephone PRospect 6-1500, Extension 331, and we will place your name on a list for future classes.

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Chapter Publications Progress Report

The plans for an expanded Yodeler, which we told you about last month, were approved last week at a special meeting of the Executive Committee, and we expect that with the March issue they will be implemented.

The Yodeler will be published monthly and sent automatically to all Chapter members, to provide better communication within the Chapter.

Those of you who feared the demise of our Chapter Schedule will be cheered to know that the Committee voted to retain that old friend in its current format. Cost factors dictate that trip descriptions be very brief. Trips requiring additional information will be detailed in the Yodeler.

We anticipate that revenue from increased advertising will eventually take care of a large share of Chapter publications expense, thus leaving that much more for conservation efforts. However, the first two years will not be easy ones. We will rely upon donations our Chapter members graciously send us. Several other Chapters depend on donations to defray a considerable part of their publications expense.

A Chapter Publications Committee composed of Dirk Breymann, Wes Bunnelle, Lou Elliott and Bruce Grant, has been appointed to work out the details. The Committee is going to need many forms of assistance, beginning with your suggestions but—most important during the next few weeks—including direct help of those who can volunteer spare time to compose letters to potential advertisers, do the typing, and do telephone or door-to-door soliciting. Get in touch with Lou Elliott: HI 4-2054 days; OL 5-3801 evenings.

The River Calendar

- Feb. 9, Tues., 8 p.m. at the Lake Merritt Canoe House, Oakland. This will be the section meeting. All welcome. We have hopes of seeing a beautiful color film of the activities of the Washington Foldboat Club.
- Feb. 13-14, Sat., and Sun., on the Merced River, the Russian, or ? Call Glenn Gaumer for the latest report. He hopes to have a good trip for all intermediate and advanced kayakers if the weather permits.
- March 8, Tues., 8 p.m. at the Lake Merritt Canoe House, Oakland. This will be the regular meeting but also the annual Boat Show. Come and see what is meant by a foldboat, a kayak, a double, a Klepper, a slalom, a Hammer. See the section's "racey" homemade models. Best of all see movies of the section in action.
- March 15, 22, 29, Tuesdays, 7:30, at the Oakland YMCA. Spring training sessions. See the coming Yodelers for details.

E. Simpson

Pinecrest Snowshoe Trip

And so it came to pass in the year 1960 that a weary band of snowshoers came staggering into the warm and cheery mountain hut of Lou Elliott on that clear cold afternoon of January 30th. They had been out all day, trudging through the snow, pitting their strength against the winter elements. They had started early that morning after a hearty breakfast (Chefs: Liz Lockwood and Carol Hodes) and had piloted their chariots euphemistically known as cars to a point a little below that oasis of civilization known as Dodge Ridge Winter Resort. There, accoutered in parkas, cameras, skis, snowshoes, goggles and various goozles, they assailed the slope, and through the morning, slowly gained the summit. The ascent was punctuated with photography (by Frank Williams and Edna Durrie), screams, snowball fights, and flops accompanied by large, grotesque sitzmarks (Clara Collins). At one point a group of stragglers was ambushed and met with a fusilade of snowballs.

Upon reaching the crest of the ridge, which to some novilleros de nieve (Rich Amour, Nikki Rempei, Frank Brogan) seemed interminable, the climbers discarded their equipage (snowshoes) and hit the nosebags. They munched and crunched their yummy goodies, talked, snoozed, and generally disported themselves while enjoying the scenery. The day was crystal clear, with a slight scattering of diaphanous clouds. The snow was cold (as it naturally should be!) and the air was warm and balmy. As the expendition munched its lunch (check that illiteration), one of the members warned the group not to eat any snow, as it was reported to be radioactive, a statement which precipitated lively discussion.

After the short respite of lunch, the party wended its way toward the summit of Dodge Ridge. About half way up, by popular decision, the group turned its respective noses (frozen) toward home. About the time the former lunch spot was reached, however, a popular protest was raised, and the group split. Half the expendition returned to the cabin, while the other (gung-ho) half retraced its steps and ascended Dodge Ridge. There the gung-ho snowshoers sunned themselves and talked with one of the men on the Ski Patrol. Then, as the sun was sinking, the weary climbers turned their steps toward home, where a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Phyllis Magnuson was waiting for them.

When the dishes were cleaned up, the group gathered around the fire, and the evening was delightfully spent with jokes, stories, games, and other lighthearted amusements.

Sunday was a pleasant, but shorter, repetition of the previous day.

-- John Sharsmith